

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 7, 2007

Mr. Jim Caswell
Director
Bureau of Land Management
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Director Caswell:

We understand that the State of Colorado is working on comments regarding the Roan Plateau Record of Decision (ROD) that would initiate further leasing of the natural gas in the Roan Plateau area. The BLM granted the State this 120 day comment period due to concerns with the ROD and the failure of the BLM to consider the comments of the communities that would be directly affected by this drilling plan, especially comments related to the impacts to wildlife.

While we appreciate that the BLM has given the State this time to review and comment on the ROD, we are concerned with how the BLM may handle those comments when they are submitted. Specifically, we are concerned that the BLM may choose not to reopen the ROD based on the comments received by the state. This is not acceptable.

In order to give credibility to this 120 day review and comment period, the BLM must give the State's input the seriousness it deserves. That requires the BLM to reopen the ROD so that it can incorporate these comments and make whatever accommodations and adjustments that may be warranted. Otherwise, it will appear that the BLM's grant to the state for additional time and input will have been meaningless.

We urge the BLM to seriously live up to the grant of an additional 120 days of review and comment to the state by reopening the ROD to accept those comments and to make whatever accommodations and adjustments to the ROD based on those comments. The state, the public and this special resource deserve no less.

Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,



Mark Udall
Member of Congress



John T. Salazar
Member of Congress